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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 ACDA-10 SAB-01 /086 W
---------- 107529
R 040541Z APR 75
FM AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHAHR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 253
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
COMIDEASTFOR BAHRAIN

UNCLAS KHORRAMSHAHR 0020

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, IR, IZ
SUBJ: IRAN-IRAQ BORDER NEGOTIATIONS

SUMMARY: SURVEY OPERATIONS TO DETERMINE THALWEG LINE OF SHATT COMMENCED SATURDAY, MARCH 29. ONE IRANIAN BOAT WITH TWO IRAQI OBSERVERS ABOARD SURVEYED RIVER NORTH OF KHOSROWABAD WHILE IRAQI BOAT WITH TWO IRANIAN OBSERVERS SURVEYED RIVER BETWEEN KHOSROWABAD AND GULF. WORK HAS BEEN GOING SMOOTHLY. IRANIAN FINISHED THEIR SHARE TUESDAY, APRIL 1, AND IRAQIS EXPECTED TO FINISH MONDAY, APRIL 7. GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO SIDES PREVAIL IN WHAT SEEMS ESSENTIALLY A PRO FORMA EXERCISE TO CHECK PREVIOUS 1966 IRAQI SURVEY OF RIVER.

1. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SURVEYING SHATT HAS BEEN DIVIDED BETWEEN IRAQI AND IRANIAN BOATS EQUIPPED WITH ECHO SOUNDING DEVICES. BOTH SIDES STARTED SATURDAY, MARCH 29 WITH IRANIANS SURVEYING NORTHERN HALF OF RIVER AND IRAQIS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOUTHERN PARTY FROM KHOSROWABAD TO GULF. IRANIANS TOOK "CUTS" EVERY 1,000 YARDS MAKING TOTAL OF 60 "RUNS", AND FINISHED WORK ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1. IRAQIS
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ARE STILL SURVEYING AND ANTICIPATE FINISHING MONDAY, PARIL 7.

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IRAQIS HAVE PROBABLY BEEN DELAYED BY VAST NUMBER OF FISHING BOATS IN SOUTHERN PART OF SHATT.

2. IRAQIS TOOK DETAILED SURVEY OF SHATT IN 1966 MAKING "CUTS" EVERY 200 YARDS ALONG RIVER. RESULTS WERE PUBLISHED AND I AM ADVISED THAT CURRENT BRITISH AND US ADMIRALTY CHARTS ARE BASED UPON THAT SURVEY. AS SEEN BY IRANIANS MAIN PURPOSE OF CURRENT SURVEY IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE HAVE BEEN ANY RADICAL CHANGES IN THALWEG SINCE 1966. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF DATA BY IRANIANS REVEALS NO MAJOR DISCREPANCIES WITH 1966 SURVEY AND EXACT AGREEMENT OF AT LEAST 70 PERCENT.

3. IRANIAN ANALYSIS THUS FAR INDICATES THALWEG ZIG ZAGS LIKE A SNAKE WITH SOME SIX MAJOR SHIFTS BETWEEN IRANIAN AND IRAQI BANKS. FROM IRANIAN-IRAQI FRONTIER NORTH OF KHORRAMSHAHR PORT THALWEG FOLLOWS IRANIAN SIDE SOUTH FOR ABOUT 3 1/2 MILES AND THEN SHIFTS TO IRAQI SIDE FOR SOME THREE MILES. AT BEGINNING OF KHORRAMSHAHR PORT THALWEG SHIFTS BACK TO IRANIAN SIDE AND THEN CROSSES OVER AGAIN JUST SOUTH OF LAST KHORRAMSHAHR JETTY. THALWEG THEN STAYS ON IRAQI SIDE TO A POINT ONE MILE NORTH OF FIRST JETTY AT ABADAN AND THEN CROSSES TO IRANIAN SIDE. THALWEG STAYS ON IRANIAN SIDE FOR ABOUT FIVE MILES AND THEN SLOWLY SHIFTS BACK TO IRAQI SIDE AT A POINT 1 1/2 MILES NORTH OF KHOSROWABAD. SOUTH OF KHOSROWABAD RIVER IS WIDE BUT CHANNEL IS NARROW AND THALWEG STAYS CLOSE TO GOEGRAPHICAL MIDDLE OF RIVER.

4. WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IRAQIS AND IRANIANS APPEARS GOOD WITH ENGLISH BEING THE COMMON LANGUAGE. ACCORDING TO ONE OBSERVER, IRANIANS DO NOT SEEM TO CARE ALL THAT MUCH ABOUT ABSOLUTE ACCURACY OF SURVEY BUT ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT KEEPING IRAQIS HAPPY. IRAQIS ON THEIR PART SEEM PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH PROVING ACCURACY OF 1966 CHARTS. BOTH SIDES APPEAR TO BE MAKING GREAT EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING GOES SMOOTHLY.

5. ALGERIAN LIAISON OFFICERS--ONE FOR EACH SHIP-ARE IN AREA. THEY HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN ACTUAL SURVEYING OPERATIONS BUT REMAINED ASHORE AND KEPT TRACK OF EACH SHIPS PROGRESS.

6. ONCE SURVEYING OPERATIONS COMPLETED THERE WILL BE A MEETING BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQI PORT AUTHORITIES TO CHECK RESULTS AND THEN
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CONCLUDE FINAL AGREEMENT ON RIVER BOUNDARY.
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